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THE GREAT CRIME OF 1914

A PLEA FOR PEACE

BY

FRANK M. FRANKLIN



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FRANK M. FRANKLIN

OF THE NEW YORK BAR

Author of "Prince and Profligate," "The Money Trust," etc.

"Truth shall make you free"

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PREFACE

A VISION OF THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, OR HELL ON EARTH

SOON after the war began I was obliged to undergo an operation. While waiting for the anæsthetic to be administered to me I was reading an account of the beginning of hostilities. The first thing I remember thereafter is a dull throbbing in my temples, which gradually grew into the noise of artillery and din of battle. I seemed to be a war correspondent standing on a hill outside of the city of Liège, near the road along which pitiful old men, women, and children were passing, seeking to escape from the high-explosive shells hurled by the Germans from across the River Meuse. The German artillery, however, was directed against the Liège forts. Repeated attempts had been made by the Germans to cross the river for the purpose of attacking them.

The regiments of German soldiers were rushed forward over the hastily constructed pontoon bridge. Shells from the fort were hurled in their midst causing parts of human bodies to fly squirming in all directions, and fall into the bloody river which seemed choked with dead and wounded.

The places left vacant by these unfortunate men were at once filled with numerous other spiked helmets, and just as these new men were about to land on the other side, a couple of large shells from the fort struck the pontoon bridge which fell with its struggling mass of humanity into the awful river below. While the wounded struggled amidst the dying in the river, another pontoon bridge was hastily constructed only to meet with the same terrible fate.

It seemed that the German forces had been checked for days, and I was wondering how many times this performance would be repeated before the German commanders would be convinced that flesh and blood is no match for hard steel and explosive shells, when a loud cry was heard on the other side of the town where an army of Germans had succeeded in advancing upon Liège from points beyond the reach of the forts. The brave Belgians had advanced fiercely against the invaders, and there ensued a struggle which has no parallel in history. Amidst heart-rending shrieks and cries, the great shells from the German artillery were slaying entire columns of Belgians as they detonated and made havoc of the bowels of the earth, which were swallowing legs, heads, and arms that had been torn from human bodies. The Belgians too were doing frightful execution with their machine guns, wiping out entire sections of the invaders, but the places of those disabled were soon filled by innumerable other soldiers.

And now there came many regiments of German Uhlans on their fiery horses, crashing and slash-

ing the Belgian infantry. The Belgians stood their ground and received the enemy upon their bayonets. As horses and men went down together, many others came from behind, jumping over them and continuing the work of death and destruction.

But the weight of numbers was in favor of the invaders. The Belgian lines began to thin out perceptibly and then they began slowly to retreat. This seemed to give additional courage to the fierce Germans who with savage yells rushed the Belgian lines until their thinning ranks could no longer hold their position.

The lines broke and the Belgians ran for cover. The Germans charged with renewed fervor and rained blows from all sides on the fleeing Belgians.

So fascinated was I by the terrible scene that I failed to notice that the fighting had come up to where I was standing. Several cringing men, women, and children, who were on the road, tried to get out of the way, only to be cut to pieces. A few men in an attempt to save themselves came to where I was standing. A number of invaders at once charged up the hill cutting down everything in their way. I received a blow on the right temple and lost consciousness as I fell.

When I revived, it was evening. The fighting seemed to have passed on. The city of Liège was in flames. The lurid sky illuminated the battlefield. I raised myself; as far as the eye could reach the ground was strewn with dead, dying, and wounded. Maimed, crushed, and shattered soldiers were praying to be put out of their

misery. Some had their eyes gouged out. Others had their arms and legs hanging loose from their torn bodies, and all, who could, were vainly striving to staunch the blood from their terrific wounds. Numerous men were writhing on the ground in the most frightful agony until their eyes began to glaze and death relieved them. Many mangled, bleeding forms were crawling on the earth aimlessly seeking for succor until they could crawl no longer and dropped down in torturing pain. Blood, human blood was everywhere.

The sickening sights surrounded me so that I could not turn to any direction for relief. I raised my hand to heaven and cried out: "Merciful God, How can such intolerable cruelty be permitted? Why will men bring on each other such agonizing grief?" Unearthly cries echoed, Why? Why? And then it seemed to me that thousands of accusing shapes raised themselves and with unnatural cries began to call out for justice, against those who had brought them there to die amidst such intolerable suffering.

The next thing I knew I was indignantly drawing up an indictment against the rulers somewhat similar to the one which appears at the end of this booklet, and then I awoke to find a physician fixing the bandage which I had torn off in my delirium. I was greatly relieved when I found it was only a dream, but when I realized that what I had seen in my vision was actually taking place daily in the theater of war, only that the horror was a thousand-fold greater and continued all the time, I resolved to set down what I could

against this greatest crime against humanity, in the hope that it will awake the conscience of the people and perhaps even reach the rulers of the earth.

The Great Crime of 1914

CHAPTER I

HOT HASTE TO BEGIN HOSTILITIES

ON July 22, 1914, peace reigned throughout the world. In spite of the great burden of militarism, which cost European Powers from one-eighth to one-half of their entire income, each of the countries at present engaged in war enjoyed an unprecedented degree of wealth and prosperity. Racial hatred was declining and brotherly love was on the ascendancy throughout the world. A Peace Palace had just been completed and a permanent Tribunal for Arbitration of Nations' differences had been established. The sentiment "Peace on earth, good will to men" was growing and bearing fruit among the peoples of the earth. Most cordial relations existed among the rulers of Europe, many of whom had intermarried into each other's families and were high honorary officers of each other's military forces.

The Czar of Russia and the Kaiser of Germany, the two men who were chiefly responsible for the

commencement of the war, were considered the chief votaries of peace, the Czar having called together the nations for the institutions of a Peace Congress, and the Emperor of Germany was everywhere declared to be the logical candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize which was to be given in 1914.

On the next day there appeared a small speck on this peaceful horizon which presaged the gathering clouds of war soon to break into the disastrous storm which is shaking Europe to its very foundation. On fateful July 23, 1914, Imperial Austria sends an ultimatum to intriguing Servia; threatening the dissolution of diplomatic relations unless this comparatively insignificant Power agrees to suppress anti-Austrian propaganda within her Dominion, and permit Austrian representatives to participate in the investigation and punishment of the conspirators, who, she alleges had taken part in the assassination of the heir of the Austrian throne on June 28th, in revenge for Austria's restrictive policy against a greater Servia. When Servia asked for more time to consider this ultimatum, and this request is favored by the other Powers, Austria arbitrarily refused to grant even one hour more than the time allotted, and here we may note the first example of the stubbornness of royalty, which deems itself far above common sense.

In the meantime Russia, the most active suppressor of free speech and free thought in her own territory, suddenly became the champion of free speech and autonomy for Servia. As the last moment of the forty-eight hours approached,

Servia replied that she will not permit Austrian representatives in Servia to try Servian subjects, stating, however, that she was willing to investigate the charges by her own authorities with freedom of inspection to Austria, and suggesting arbitration; this reply was not satisfactory to the Austrian Government.

The friendly offices of England offered in an attempt to procure arbitration at a conference of the European ambassadors in London, were peremptorily declined by Austria, and on July 28th, she formally declared war on Servia and at once began to bombard Belgrade its capital.

The Czar immediately called out all his Reservists, which means that besides her enormous standing army consisting of all able-bodied males who are compelled to serve for several years when they attain the age of twenty; all ex-soldiers who have taken up peaceful pursuits must leave their homes, families, and occupations and join their colors hundreds of miles away.

In 1866, Prussia and Austria went to war for about the same reason, or lack of reason, which is partly responsible for the present hostilities. Each, distrusting the other, forced the mobilization of its troops at their mutual frontier until the respective armies clashed and precipitated the inevitable conflict. The Prussians triumphed over the Austrians after a large number of men were killed and maimed by both sides, and at the end of the war both countries were in about the same position as when they started. Bismarck, who foresaw the coming of the greater Franco-Prussian

War deemed it advisable to cultivate Austrian friendship so as to insure her neutrality. This friendship gradually grew into the present defensive and offensive compact in 1879. This alliance furnished Germany with an excuse blindly to sanction all that her ally, Austria, had said and done, and to send an ultimatum to Russia demanding that her mobilization cease within twenty-four hours or she will declare war. To threaten war within twenty-four hours that would destroy the work of centuries seems to be official Germany's idea of promulgating peace. Slow and stubborn Russia paid no attention to this threat, and so on, July 31st, Kriegs-Gefahr, or Martial Law, was declared throughout Germany, and the Kaiser at once proceeded to concentrate his vast army, not on the Russian frontier, where Cossacks were already making inroads upon Prussian territory, but on the borders of France and Belgium and even invaded Luxemburg, regardless of Germany's solemn treaty to respect the neutrality of both Belgium and Luxemburg. On the following day Germany declared formal war on Russia.

Republican France, that has so little in common with Autocratic Russia, had nevertheless been forced to form a dual alliance with the Czar's Government since 1876 owing to Germany's growing military power and menacing attitude. England, after becoming apprehensive on account of Germany's increasing navy, found it worth her while to cultivate French friendship. Subsequently France induced England to come also to an understanding with Russia and thus the Entente Cor-

diale, or Triple Understanding, was formed to act together against the Triple Alliance whenever the joint interests of those three countries require action. France, in obedience to her alliance with Russia, has always expressed her willingness to coöperate with that country and issued a mobilization order when Germany mobilized at the French frontier. It is but fair to say that the Government of this European Republic had first ordered her forces away from the frontier so that there should be no clash with Germany and in order to demonstrate that Germany is the aggressor; and which by the way furnished Italy with the excuse she sought for not participating in the war, as she agreed to do by the terms of the Triple Alliance, if Germany had been attacked.

Thus the alliances which were made for the purpose of securing the peace of Europe have, to a great extent, become the cause of the present war.

After all this mischief had been done, on August 2, 1914, Austria and Russia were at last willing to discuss the advisability of not killing hundreds of thousands of men, because one archduke had been assassinated. The dove of peace hovered for a short time over the hostile camps. There was still time to avoid this awful Armageddon, and had the rulers of Europe earnestly desired peace even then, the dark clouds of war would have disappeared. But, no, the savage spirit of strife had come to stay, and blood and iron became the rule of the day.

England claims that Russia and Austria were on the point of agreeing upon an amicable settle-

ment when Germany precipitated the war. Germany claims that the Russian mobilization forced her hand. The fact remains that the Teuton war lord evidently believed that he was lord "of all he surveyed," and demanded that he be permitted to use Belgium for the passage of his troops so as to enable him to attack France more swiftly, and paid no attention to Belgian's King when called upon to respect their neutrality treaty. Germany's chancellor regarded it as "a mere scrap of paper," and so, upon Belgium's refusal, Germany at once began to invade Belgium territory, wage war upon her people, and attack her forts, thereby demonstrating that modern fortifications are reliable and that the best laid plans of military experts "may go agley."

The Belgium King protested to the King of England against the breach of their treaty, and the attack upon her by Germany. The relations between Great Britain and Germany were none too friendly since Germany refused England's proposition to cease building additional warships and thereby threatening England's supremacy at sea and her security on land, so England seemed to be only too glad of the excuse Germany gave her when she attacked Belgium, and at once mobilized her troops in order to defend Belgium neutrality by force of arms. The fatal idea generally prevailed that a European war was inevitable, and that it might as well take place then as any other time.

And so on August 4, 1914, there was a prompt general declaration of hostilities all around, and

some days later Japan recalled to mind her treaty with England and stated that "in order to preserve peace in the Far East" she advised Germany to relinquish her possessions in China and withdraw her fleet and power within about a week, or she would declare war on Germany. Germany heeded her not, and Japan started the war game in the Far East.

And so each of the countries, after doing all they can to provoke each other, combines to stop the wheels of progress, paralyze trade, finance, and industry, sacrifice its best blood, and pour out its treasures so as to bring sorrow and suffering to millions of homes throughout the continent.

CHAPTER II

NO REAL REASON FOR THIS RUINOUS WAR

WHAT real cause can be assigned for the appalling devastation that is going on in Europe? Each of the rulers engaged in the murderous game seeks to saddle another with the burden of commencing hostilities and says that he was dragged into the war and that the other "thrust the sword into his hand." As a matter of fact all of the countries seem to be more or less guilty. In the cold-blooded, impersonal, diplomatic correspondence that preceded the war we find no suggestion that the alleged difference between the great nations might be submitted to arbitration.

There can be no question about the fact that if the belligerent nations had done nothing while they were exchanging notes with each other, hostilities would never have been commenced, and if a reasonable disposition had been shown to adjust their pretended grievances there would have been no war. Instead, however, all of the countries had been proceeding to prepare for a conflict, which caused apprehension and fear amongst them, and furnished the spark that ignited the combustible Powers and resulted in this horrible conflagration.

With the avowed purpose of securing peace, Europe has been on a war footing for many years, each country going to the limit of its resources in securing great standing armies and navies, and the latest weapons of destruction. How could anyone believe in pretended peaceful intentions when they were constantly preparing to fight each other? This was accentuated by their contemptible spy system, and they thus constantly bred discord, antagonism, and racial hatred.

Germany's terrific, well-drilled, and ever-increasing military power was the first menace to the rest of Europe. Each country, with the ostensible idea of being able to defend itself, went to the very limit of its resources in preparing to fight whenever it should be called upon to do so. The military aristocracy, consisting of thousands of officers in charge of these vast armies, who regarded war as their sole trade and means of rapid promotion, were always most eager to engage in war upon the slightest pretext, or lack of pretext. With them were the wealthy and influential manufacturers of war material who directly profited through the large expenditures necessitated by human strife, and part of whose business it is to sow the seeds of discord in order that they may reap the harvest of gold.

The rulers finally yielded to these dreadful advocates of destruction, and seized upon the first chance that presented itself to involve their respective countries in wholesale slaughter.

It was through some such lack of reason that Austria was induced to declare war on Servia.

Can it be seriously contended that the great Dual-Monarchy was afraid of its little neighbor? Because a Servian assassin, who was apprehended, had killed an archduke, does an entire country have to engage in assassination? Can it be seriously maintained that propaganda in Servia against the Austrian Government could do any serious harm to it? If the entire Servian army had attacked Austria it could easily have been annihilated.

The more probable causes for the war were the secret desire of the Imperial party in Austria to annex more territory in the Balkan States and the ungrounded racial hatred fostered by the war party and also the ill-advised idea of engaging in a "popular" war so as to unite all the contending parties in Austria after the Emperor's expected demise.

As a direct sequel to Austria's attitude we find Russia preparing to support Servia and to mobilize her great forces. While Russia's standing army is not as intelligent, well-drilled, or equipped as Germany's, it has always been superior in numbers, and the Muscovites have almost as great faith in the rule of force and violence as the Germans and, therefore, Russia has been almost as great a menace as Germany.

What sense is there to the alleged Pan-Slavic Federation? What good would a union of all the Slav races do to anybody? Does anyone believe that the most cruel government on earth, which merely for the expression of opinion has sent to Siberia, to prison, and into exile its most en-

lightened subjects who dared to lift their voices in protest against brutality, would go to war against Austria, for trying to prevent free speech and punish royal assassination? Has the great Russian Bear put his own house in such order that he can consistently help others? Is it not more likely that the Czar resorted to war in order to divert his people from the great burden of taxes and oppression he has heaped upon them? This idea of diversion has been repeatedly utilized by Russia in the past when she organized and encouraged Jewish massacres. When she finds that this way of giving her subjects something else to think about is becoming unpopular on the continent, and that there is too much hue and cry raised against such outrages, she seeks a more respectable mode of rapine and massacre.

Russia has also an eye on the Balkan States and on the Dardanelles, although she has more territory than she can use for generations to come, and if she would employ her poor people in the cultivation thereof, and follow the advice of her first real King, Peter the Great, who earned that title by attempting to raise Russia out of the mire of Barbarism and encourage her in peaceful pursuits, her Empire would become a land of plenty. Another cause for the war is the time-honored one of Russia seeking an outlet to the sea. As a matter of fact she has several splendid seaports that are available at all times, such as those at Odessa, Libau, etc., and has outlets upon the Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea, Black Sea, and White Sea. But even if she needed additional seaports, could not Russia obtain them

more humanely by purchase and dollar diplomacy, as, for instance, the recent acquisition by Germany of a port at New Waterway near Rotterdam, Holland?

Germany has been selfishly struggling for supremacy without regard to the rest of humanity and is therefore now facing most of civilized humanity in the greatest war and carnage in the history of the world. Because Austria has wrongfully annexed a couple of Servian provinces entrusted to her government, and Germany has encouraged her in her arrogant attitude in regard to the Balkan States, does that give her any excuse for saying that there is fear of a Slav invasion of Europe? Why should Germany be offended at Russian mobilization, while she herself was doing the same thing? Why has Germany been increasing her armament each year, if not to engage in strife and slaughter?

Germany was making extraordinary strides in every line of endeavor, and if she had left well enough alone and preserved the peace, no one could have stopped her from becoming the greatest Power on the European continent. She has even acquired large tracts of land for her colonies on the other continents, where she could send any surplus population that she may have for hundreds of years to come.

In Europe, Germany's neighbors are just about as crowded as she is, and Germany can get more room only by murdering the people in her vicinity. Why should Germany paralyze her progress and sacrifice her culture upon the pagan altar of

Barbarism? Why should any Power be jealous of its neighbors' prosperity and colonies if it has colonies and property of its own? There was every reason for peace, and no excuse for war.

But Germany, like the others, seems to have been drunk with power, and seems to have been running amuck spoiling for a fight with anybody upon any pretext.

Her martial emperor was only too ready to listen to the advice of his war party, which he believed would give him a chance to realize his dreams of greatness and Imperialism. Nay, if possible, he would have liked to Germanize the world. "Deutschland über alles"; but the All(i)es have to be reckoned with and that is no more probable than it is possible for the Slav races to enslave the earth. A day before the war the Teutons and Slavs were dwelling in peace together. Tolerance of religion and brotherly love were gaining ground, and racial hatred would have completely died out as it has almost expired in the United States, if it had not been kindled anew by racial wars.

And now we come to France. Why should La Belle France, who has been baptized in the blood of kings and nobility, take up the cudgel for Despotic Russia and finance her wars? What has she to gain from the present conflict? France could have avoided her alliance like Italy and if Germany had been assured of her neutrality that country would have been too glad to leave her in peace; and France would have saved the world

from this gigantic misfortune. But the brave Frenchmen have ever been led into foolhardy ways. The French were evidently afraid that Germany might fight them at some future time, so they decided to fight the Germans at once. They did not even have the unmoral excuse of being rivals in commercialism, which so often causes war. There is, of course, the wild spirit of revenge rankling in their breasts because of the loss of Alsace-Lorraine, and there is hope that they will bring these twin provinces back into the mother country—but at what enormous sacrifice! And so each war has thus far been the grim parent of a more horrible and greater conflict, when the vanquished have gathered sufficient strength to fight.

As to England, who has repeatedly opposed Russian aggression in the past, her Prime Minister stated that "the merits of the dispute are not the concern of his Majesty's government." On August 3, 1914, the same Minister declared that Britain is free from any obligation to any other Power, and that there is no reason for her going to war. England did not, however, exert herself particularly for peace; she might, for instance, have plainly warned both Germany and Russia that she would resist, with arms, the unreasonable ambition of either of them, if they went to war. On August 4th, without negotiations, she severed her apparent long-standing friendship with Austria and Germany, and declared war upon the latter country for the ostensible reason that Germany violated Belgium neutrality, but as a matter of fact

because Britain was seeking all along for an excuse to enter into the maelstrom. Germany and Austria tried in many ways to secure England's neutrality, and Germany asked her upon what terms she would remain neutral; she refused to commit herself, but merely hinted that she could not stand calmly by if France was molested, and if Belgium had not furnished her a good pretext, she would have found some other excuse for joining forces with the other countries. The real reason for going to war is that Britain has acquired the habit of fighting for what is termed the "balance of power," a chimera which has no particular weight, for while English territory in Europe remains the same, the balance of power is always different after each European war. A serious question arises as to whether her policy will not act as a boomerang in this case, for if Russia comes out victorious and over-balances all the other nations in power, it would be worse for the world in general and for England in particular. Moreover it will be just as difficult to get rid of Russia's militarism as of Germany's. In all fairness, why should England have greater right than anyone else at sea? Would John Bull dare to bully the rest of the world and say that he has the right to search neutral vessels bound for neutral ports and confiscate food supplies, if he did not have his overbearing navy? Britain's isolation, which might be used as an argument against her entering into war, is brought forward as one of the reasons for it. The ground that she fought in self-defense before anyone commenced to attack her is also un-

tenable. England seems to be anxious to show off her prowess and what a great Power she is, and evidently believes that she can do so by killing off the greatest number of her own subjects, as well as numerous innocent people of other countries. And now that she is in the fight, as the most civilized of nations let us hope that all this bloodshed will not be in vain, and that she will use all her efforts to compel the Powers to disarm and to abolish scientific brutal force as a means of settling disputes among nations.

CHAPTER III

WAR IS WRONG, WASTEFUL, WICKED, AND WANTON

IF a man kills a human being or robs him, he commits a crime. If the killing of one person is a crime, how can the killing of thousands be justifiable? If the robbing of a single individual be wrong, how can the robbing of an entire community or nation be right?

One who commits a crime strikes a blow at the entire social order. How much greater blow then, is struck at all humanity when the stupendous crime of strife and slaughter is entered upon? War, a survival of the age of barbarism, has outgrown its purpose and usefulness.

Time was when the right of might was exalted, and the profession of arms was a necessary evil. In the early ages when each tribe depended upon itself for existence there was some material reason for killing off its neighbors so that the victor might possess the products of the soil from the immediate vicinity. But now, when the entire world is united by telegraph wires and wireless telegraphs, when we have all kinds of rapid transportation and mutual obligations and interests, and where the comforts of modern life depend

upon such a variety of wares produced by such a variety of races in such a variety of parts of the globe, it seems the height of folly to kill off people who contribute to the supply of our necessities.

Not only are great numbers of laborers destroyed, but many scientists, poets, inventors, and other thinkers who might have enriched the world, are wantonly sacrificed to the God of War.

Even victory does not begin to compensate. Where the winning nation succeeds in annexing foreign territory, it obtains at the same time a constant source of strife in its body politic. For example, after all these years Alsace and Lorraine, annexed by Germany at the end of the Franco-Prussian War, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, taken over by Austria, have been like a thorn in the flesh of the victorious kingdoms and are still large causes of the present strife. People have become more educated and resent being taken over and driven like sheep. Hardly a single subject of the conquering nations has benefited one jot by the annexation of additional territory. On the contrary, the citizens of those countries are mulcted with additional taxes in order to keep the vanquished land in subjection.

The other reward of victory is the exaction by the conqueror of indemnity, but even if the depleted treasuries of the victors are refilled for a while by such blood money, the conquerors can never be repaid for the loss of useful manhood and talent in their kingdom. Ask the heartbroken mothers, widows, and orphans what price they consider would repay them for the loss of their

dear ones. Withal, statistics will show that great poverty and depression have been the lot of a victorious nation after receiving the spoils of the war.

How then about the unfortunate vanquished? To what depths of despair are its broken-down, defeated people driven by the awful waste and tragedy of war? Does it not seem like madness for civilized nations to engage and continue in warfare, when they have so much to lose and so little to gain therefrom? And yet, here we have some of the most civilized nations of Europe engaging in primeval strife with modern scientific weapons of destruction and only agreeing blindly not to resort to pacific measures and civilized arbitration.

A question arises whether treaties or agreements between nations are worth the paper they are written upon. Is it not a disgrace to humanity that great Powers should not have as true a sense of honor as an ordinary honest man? What is the use of cultured Germany utilizing the word "honor" as when her statesmen talk of being in honor bound to support her ally Austria or speak of peace with honor, when she unhesitatingly breaks her agreement about Belgium and Luxemburg and attempts to rob their sovereigns and people of everything they possess? If nations make and break contracts at will as they did in Korea and China, why should they claim that they go to war to uphold treaties as England did about Belgium and Japan in regard to England? Perhaps this is a new-found virtue in their diplomacy and not an old time self-seeking policy. At the end of the

Crimean War, in the Congress of Paris, there was added to the Peace Treaty a distinct clause to the effect that the Powers would submit all their differences to mediation and arbitration before going to war. Why did not Great Britain call attention to existing treaties for mediation between the great Powers before engaging in war; as ordinary individuals would have done if they had written contracts between themselves? Why did not poor Franz Joseph, who had been through so many of the catastrophes of war, remember that his government had agreed to arbitrate before he permitted the war party to start the dreadful cataclysm that is laying his kingdom and Europe in waste? Why did not the dread Czar of Russia think of his humane professions and pledges of peace before he unleashed his feudal hordes for death and destruction? And finally, fair France, the Pleasure Ground of the World, and the seat of European Democracy, why did not she recall the International Tribunal wherein her disputes might have been adjusted and thus save her people from the most dreadful of all scourges which is devastating and depopulating her own and other lands?

Cannot these rulers see that the entire idea of cruel strife has become revolting to the modern mind; that right-thinking men cannot exalt the art of war, which after all its tactics and strategy, merely amounts to crushing, by fair means or foul, a lot of men, who are styled the enemy, and annihilating them in the most cruel manner, and particularly in hitting them when they are down,

and if perchance they try to run away in an attempt to preserve their lives, unmercifully cutting them to pieces?

How can humane persons glorify such horrors or the awful atrocities committed in every war, such as the destroying and burning of villages, churches, and cities that are in the way of the Juggernaut of a marching army, and where many innocent non-combatants of all ages are killed and rendered homeless, and whose lifetime savings are destroyed, lost, and wiped out by the shot of a gun?

In this class we may find the recent bombardment and destruction of beautiful Louvain, with its forty thousand inhabitants, by the Germans. Then, too, there are the modern terrors of the air from which bombs are hurled and dropped upon inoffending and unsuspecting non-combatants, an instance of which is the recent night attack upon Antwerp, where many women and children were killed and wounded.

And worst of all, we hear from parts of Eastern Prussia, where the Russians hold forth, and from other seats of war, of the breaking out of unbridled passion of the overtaxed, half-crazed men, who have been turned into beasts, and who violate young girls and women before the eyes of their husbands, relatives, and families, causing the most excruciating agony to their unfortunate victims before they die from the effects of the heinous violation of their bodies.

And yet there are worthy people who say that such unspeakable outrages should proceed without

protest from anyone. If the voice for humanity and reason is universal and loud enough the powers that be must hear it and heed it; at all events it can do no harm to attempt to do good.

It seems almost inconceivable that the civilized rulers should not hesitate to precipitate all these horrors and should see fit so to disregard all moral obligations and teachings of God and man, and viciously set against each other numerous subjects with orders to kill, maim, wound, and capture, in order to settle some comparatively trivial injury, or dispute of so-called honor that has arisen, or some imaginary apprehensions of danger, when they might settle any and all such controversies between themselves in the pacific, orderly, and humane manner provided by The Hague Tribunal or in any other civilized and peaceful manner. It is human to err, but it is inhuman to proceed with this terrible error.

CHAPTER IV

PERVERTED PRIDE, PATRIOTISM, AND PASSION

AT the beginning of the war a blaze of so-called patriotism spread throughout each nation. Men were everywhere rushing to join the colors of their country, king, or government. Party lines were wiped out and public opinion in each belligerent country was in favor of the impending war. Aside from the heartbreaking parting between members of families, there was a general enthusiasm as the men left for the front to the strains of martial music. If the populace had the foresight to see that in a short while these departing soldiers who were leaving in the flower of health, vigor, and manhood would be driven almost beyond human endurance and forced to accomplish almost impossible tasks, and that most of them would be maimed and wounded, and many of them left on the field of battle, the cheering would be turned into wails of woe and cries of indignation against the government who sent out their friends and dear ones to death and disaster.

But now the people can see only the glamour and glory of war, and each regards his own cause, whatever that may be, as right, and dares to

raise his voice calling upon Almighty God to bless their unholy expedition of slaughter and strife, and that the Lord of Hosts be on their side and aid them to crush and confound the army of men sent to oppose them, and who are by them styled "the enemy."

The same aggressive patriotic or jingo spirit prevails in their parliaments and law-making bodies. The majority that would generally haggle before they would expend any sum, no matter how small, upon any real improvement for their country, now that war is declared are more than ready to finance the "human slaughterhouse" and devote any sum obtainable to promote the worst of all curses to humanity, known as "War."

It is reported that when Austria declared war on Servia, Vienna burst into a "frenzy of delight." It will be of interest to note with what frenzied feelings they now regard the numerous reverses of their armies and the ruthless killing of so many hundreds of thousands of their best youth and manhood.

One feeling may be sure to have been intensified, and that is the mad lust for blood, which seems to prevail. The most ferocious beasts of prey do not attack or kill their own kind, and it seems almost unbelievable that modern civilized man, with his ages of culture, should be more ferocious than the wildest beasts that inhabit the jungle.

The general public is infected with the war fever and intoxicated by mixed motives that crystallize into war patriotism. From early childhood their minds have been perverted and they

have been made to believe that the entrapping and cruel killing of a lot of innocent men who are known as "foes" is the most exalted game of games.

Each government that is responsible for bringing on the war uses all sorts of methods to stimulate the war spirit everywhere. It furnishes military spectacles of uniformed marching men and everywhere is heard the stirring national hymn whereby a powerful feeling is called up in the breast and sets the masses to shouting "hurrah!" "There is no time to ask the reason why, there is but time to do and die."

Each government claims that the war is defensive and that its country is in danger. There would be no danger of invasion if they did not stir up and bring on the war.

Then, too, many are lead by the spirit of adventure into the field of battle, the only field where most of them have a chance to distinguish themselves, if they are not themselves extinguished, and they also feel the latent savage instinct for fight aroused in their breasts.

Amidst all this there is much of heroism, true courage, and noble sacrifice. Above all there is a great expenditure of energy which would be of lasting benefit to humanity and mankind, if turned into beneficial channels. The masses do not stop to consider that their opponents are of the same mind, and that both their causes can not be right, and that one most of necessity be wrong. Or when they claim that each one is defending itself from the other, when both are doing all they

can to attack each other is not reasonable, and they might remember that an all benevolent Deity will not listen to their respective prayers when they call upon Him to help them break his express commandment "Thou shalt not kill."

Nor do they figure that those whom they are bent upon murdering to the strains of military music and drums have feelings like themselves and upon their lives depend the existence and happiness of women and children, and that the curse of Cain will cling to them to the end of their days because they have committed homicide. Heaven forgive them for they know not what they do.

There is a general belief that it is glorious and that we are fulfilling a great duty when we die for our country. That is true when we die for a worthy cause, but what does it avail when our life-blood ebbs away for no cause at all, nay when we bring by it the most abject wretchedness to those we love and who are dependent upon us for life and succor? Is it not more our duty to live a useful life for our country, wives, children, and families?

But in times of war these ideas are perverted and we watch anxiously the bulletins which perchance tell of a great victory for our men whereby we have succeeded in annihilating and laying low thousands of the enemy, with a loss of probably only a few hundred men to ourselves, failing to realize that we have thereby broken thousands of hearts and homes not only of the enemy, but of our own people as well.

That a man should love, honor, and revere his

country is but natural, but this righteous love is turned into evil passion when it helps to bring upon our country the greatest curse and scourge that can befall it, when it plunges the entire land into desolation, misery, and woe, and robs it of its youth and manhood, particularly when we stop to consider that the cause which in most instances is responsible for wars is simply the groundless greed for more territory. "Thou shalt not kill," should hold good when applied to nations as well as when applied to individuals, and no right-minded monarch or ruler should attempt to raise himself on the bloody corpses of men.

Patriotism and honor are given as the chief causes for commencing and continuing the dreadful waste of humanity in which Europe is at present engaged. Because England, France, and Japan, as well as poor Belgium wanted to maintain their honor and in order to keep their word and uphold their end of the treaty, they have gone into a quarrel which does not concern them. While Germany, Austria, Russia, and Servia profess that patriotism for their respective Teuton and Slavic races is the cause of their present strife. None of these Powers have thus far thought of honor when they had an opportunity to annex or steal their neighbors' lands, and this is particularly true of some of the colonies which they have obtained by such unconscionable methods.

Nor do any of them hesitate to use the most cruel and despicable, inhuman and unfair methods while they are waging war, for they say "All is fair in war." But why? Any one of them

would not hesitate to imprison and execute any real patriot who dared to lift his voice in protest against their dreadful butcheries and refused to participate therein. That they call "treason."

As for suggestions of peace, none of them would think of doing anything so dishonorable or unpatriotic. What! Peace without honor? (Whatever that may be.) And so they continue to cut each other to pieces.

To be Christians, merciful and just, or to practice any of the real virtues does not seem to be in their Code of Honor. Their entire attitude, were it not so tragic, would be most ridiculous. What care they for the millions of men that are sacrificed and ruined so long as they can satisfy their empty honor and so-called patriotism?

CHAPTER V

A PLEA FOR PEACE

PEACE, lasting peace, is the universal cry. Everyone pretends to want peace, and yet the slaying of the innocent continues on a larger scale than ever before. Crimson blood and bitter tears run in rivulets. Thousands of men are tossing about in paroxysms of excruciating pain, praying for cold death to relieve and release them from burning injuries. Tens of thousands of men are driven to distraction, seeking relief from unendurable anguish. There are moans and groans from hundreds of thousands who have been maimed, wounded, and mowed down by sharp swords and iron missiles that have been hurled against their defenseless, unresisting flesh and blood. Millions of bereaved mothers, widows, and children are in the throes of great anguish for their lost loved ones.

And still the work of ruthless slaughter and destruction proceeds. More and more wounds are inflicted. More and more are added to the list of widows, orphans, and cripples. More and more lacerated hearts are crushed. More and more misery is piled up.

Is it possible that the civilized rulers do not heed those agonized cries of the tortured millions? Does not all this awful catastrophe appall them. Have they no hearts that they cannot feel for all these bleeding hearts? Can it be true that the Allied Powers do not realize the magnitude of the horror already inflicted, when they enter into a bond not to make any moves for peace without the consent of each other, and that this might mean a fight to a finish—a finish of what? Is it to be a finish of all their vast resources? Is it to be the end of all those millions of misguided men who are engaged in this awful death grapple? It is doubtful if the powerful combatants could absolutely defeat each other even after years of struggle, but why not realize at once the terrible futility and cruelty of it all? Why keep up a war that has so far proven to be the most disastrous in history? Why prolong this incalculable torture and waste? Do all these rulers consider that if they use all their combined wealth to continue this gigantic strife they will not have sufficient money to carry on their government and business after the fury of this cataclysm has worn itself out, and if they do not stop exterminating all their able-bodied men and boys they will have no one left to carry on the industries and commerce of the country for those who remain behind?

If they kill off their healthy men, where will they obtain a new supply of strong men to harvest their fields and continue their races? Do they forget that the main reason for the fall of empires has been the want of strong men to support them?

Then, if they believe in war, it is not at all unlikely that they will need all their military forces to settle the differences between themselves and their allies. For instance, what if Russia wants more spoils of war than England and France are willing that she should have?—And then so many men have been pushed back in the scale of civilization and have been taught that the right of might and brutal force prevails, that when these much-wronged men are driven to desperation and rise in their might to pillage and devour all before them, where will they get the men to subdue and suppress the ruthless red revolt when it rises against them? Travelers tell us what correspondents are not allowed to write that there are already bread riots in Paris and other cities where people stand up to be shot down rather than starve to death—aye soon will haggard Famine and dread Pestilence stalk abroad. Never before have they unleashed such terrific forces of war on so large a scale, and no one can foretell to what intolerable catastrophes they may lead—Oh! why don't they stop before it gets beyond their control?

If this terrible struggle continues any longer the European continent is doomed. Already business and industry are facing bankruptcy everywhere. The intense suffering is growing greater hourly, and if they permit it to become unbearable through starvation their outraged subjects will over-leap all bounds, particularly if they should be so blood-thirsty as to permit this cruel strife to continue until the cold winter, with its added terrors, sets in. Each day that the war is continued

the chasm between the warring factions grows greater and is being heaped higher with bleeding corpses.

How can the Powers that be pretend to be Christian or even civilized when they not only sanction but urge and practice the continuation of such unchristian, barbarous deeds? Europe is now like a house divided against itself, when such precepts as "Love thy Enemy" is turned into "Make more Enemies." Are they not mindful of the day of reckoning when they will stand before the judgment bar of the King of Kings and answer to Him and to history for the bloody acts of this day?

How can these lords of war be so cruel, inhuman, and unmindful of their own best interests as to continue this awful carnage? At all events, why should they not suspend hostilities and see if they cannot come to some pacific understanding?

This could do but little harm and would be of great benefit by giving to their bruised and battered men a chance to recuperate, and it would save thousands of lives of those who come into the hospitals and other temporary places of refuge much faster than they can be taken care of, not to mention the numerous wounded who perish daily among the dead.

If divergent Russia, England, and France could settle amicably their differences and enter into a military alliance, why could not all the Powers enter into a beneficial alliance for peace? If the belligerents have not entirely lost all sense of reason, justice, humanity, and fairness, they ought to agree upon terms to end not only their present

miserable contest, but this terrible scourge of war for all time to come.

Oh, ye Lords of Life and Death,
For the sake of suffering humanity;
For your own sake, cease this awful waste of war.
Intervene to bring about a lasting peace.
Halt death and dire destruction;
Halt desperation and devastation upon land and
sea.

Hearken to the agonized cries of the millions whose
bodies, hearts, and spirits lie broken and
bleeding in the dust;

Raise them up for the upbuilding of their shattered
strength and usefulness.

Show nobility and true greatness by conquering
ignoble and petty greed, hatred, revenge, and
perverted ambition.

Think, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the
whole world and lose his own soul?"

Let the angel of Peace descend upon earth to heal
the sick and suffering.

Oh, let the blessing of Peace bring plenty, prosper-
ity, and happiness to all mankind. AMEN.

CHAPTER VI

THE FOLLY AND FALLACY OF MILITARISM— PROPOSALS FOR PERPETUATING PEACE

THE most effective method of obtaining peace is to remove the causes of war. Great armaments—the chief cause of jealousy and ill-feeling among the nations—is the first element. If the present war has done nothing else it has completely exploded the theory of armed peace. Nobody would seriously contend that the maintenance of great armies and navies would ensure peace any more than he would assert that the great destructive power of modern war implements makes armed contests between nations impossible. The fallacy that each Power must train and arm itself until it is stronger than any other is apparent on its face. So that one of the main excuses for crippling national finance and spending vast sums for armaments is gone. The stupendous sacrifice of human life, property, and art occasioned by the present war has aroused such a reaction throughout the world against martial strife that it is doubtful if even the cold-blooded military experts, who try to show that a nation has a right to engage in war, regardless of the rights of other nations, would

dare to advocate such outrageous views now. The one hope that looms above all others at present is that this great sacrifice of man and money should not be in vain and that armed contests should be avoided between different governments and this terrific and dreadful deluge of blood should stop forever. There would be no cause for the claim of each of the Powers that they are on the defensive against the others because the others are liable to attack them if the Powers were not preparing all the time for attacking each other. By reducing the armaments of each nation, millions of dollars would be saved every year, and there would be at once enough money from this source to pay the innumerable loans which the respective countries secured in order to engage in this war, and each country might well call this a beneficial indemnity that no one has to pay. Armaments should be limited to such an extent that only sufficient men be employed to effectually police the nations. This is the only way to guarantee peace for the future. The reduction should be in accord with the percentage of population, the details of which might be left to the permanent Court of Arbitration that would have to be established by the Powers at the end of the war.

Racial hatred has never been one of the great causes of war. The people of each country got along well together until hostilities broke out, and except in rare instances have still nothing against each other, so that it would not be difficult to bury the hatchet between them for good and all. Russia and France found no difficulty in fraterniz-

ing with each other after France had fought against Russia in the Crimean War, and even Turkey and Bulgaria entered into a friendly understanding a very short time after they had been at each other's throats. If the European Powers will not sow the seeds of strife and will educate their people to the idea that we are all members of the one great human family, the universal brotherhood of man will gradually become an established fact, particularly if the different Powers will show true magnanimity and generosity by an early conclusion of peace. In the United States, for instance, people from all parts of the globe are congregated in one harmonious community. If we believe the different Powers who are protesting that they were reluctant to enter into war and that they were all keen for peace, then there is no reason why hostilities should not be suspended and the Powers start to arbitrate their differences peacefully where they left off when the war began. There is a feeling among the rulers that their people would not tolerate peace after the killing and maiming of so many of their men. It is true that the people had to pay and are paying the appalling toll of carrying on this hideous strife, but that is no reason for continuing their suffering. The question of sending so many men to slaughter should have been asked by the rulers from the people before the war started. One of the reforms which this war should bring about is the dawn of a true democracy, and no war should be declared without a vote from all the people who have to pay so dearly for it. It is needless to say that after a fair dis-

cussion no country would vote for woe and war. The rulers themselves should be glad to shift the awful responsibility of this terrible tragedy upon the shoulders of the people. Even Bismarck, the original man of blood and iron, stated that no people were justified in entering upon war unless they were forced to it. If each country will give its citizens a true constitutional government it really does not matter under which flag the people live, and this fact ought to help the Powers when they are thinking of giving the peoples of Europe new boundaries. Since the people have everything to lose and nothing to gain from continuing the war, there is no time like the present to put an end to it. Another reason assigned for not ending the war is that each of the Powers fears that its opponents will think it afraid and for that reason try to exact prohibitive terms of peace. This feeling might be overcome by the United States inviting all the Powers, including the combatants, to a congress in New York, where the subject of partial disarmament beginning at some future date might be discussed and settled. This ought to give the Powers an excuse to suspend hostilities until a decision is arrived at by such congress. The subject of perpetuating peace would naturally come up at their session, and, after parley, the belligerent Powers might come to an understanding and get together by signing a peace treaty, not only for their own benefit, but for the benefit of the rest of the world.

The unification of human races and the promotion of peace have been advocated by humanitarian

thinkers since the early ages. Podiebrad, King of Bohemia, first suggested "a league of peace," which did not materialize on account of the disapproval of cruel Louis XI. of France. King Henry IV. of France next proposed to the European Powers a federation of their states for maintaining peace. Austria, which was at that time powerful, but whose power has since then gradually diminished with each disastrous war, opposed this federation, so that the European Powers resolved to fight for peace and to whip Austria into line. Henry IV. was to lead the campaign, but this benevolent monarch was, in 1610, assassinated by an insane monk who believed that war was necessary. The curse of war was resumed, the rulers attempting the impractical idea of conquering their neighbors and the rest of the world. Napoleon III. was the next monarch who strove for peace, but was defeated by the machinations of Bismarck, who forced upon France the disastrous war in 1870. The next monarch to strive for peace is the present Kaiser. Immediately after ascending the throne he was very active in the peace movement. But it seems when it was proposed that he give up Alsace-Lorraine for the sake of peace, he preferred the chances of war. We next find the Czar of Russia calling a peace congress which provided for successful arbitration as far as it went, but it did not go far enough. While the arbitrators, appointed in each instance, have settled all disputes that have thus far arisen between nations in a more satisfactory manner than they could possibly be adjusted by war, there was no perma-

nent court of arbitration and no provisions for enforcing the mandate of The Hague Tribunal. Therefore, the first necessity of the present is a permanent Court of Arbitration, where each Power would be represented by a number of its own international lawyers or judges. This Court should sit in permanent session in order to administer international law as well as guard the peace of the world at all times. Any *ex-parte* business could be attended to by a single judge, while important international disputes should be passed upon by an entire court, and their decision should be binding on all the Powers, and there should be an agreement that if a nation should so far forget its obligations as to refuse to abide by the judgment of this high court all the other nations should enforce the judgment. Such refusal is not likely to happen when a country knows that that is tantamount to national suicide. If any nation has at any time any dispute with another nation, it could cite that other nation to appear before this tribunal, by summons or otherwise, as is done at present in ordinary courts of law. The federation of governments would take over the factories where engines of destruction are made and discourage that awful industry, so that the millions used at present in preparing for war could be utilized for promoting peaceful industry and education. The only rivalry between nations should be as to which of its subjects are better governed and made happier. A new era of reason, justice, and fraternity will then dawn upon the earth and martial murder will cease forever.

An Informal Indictment

THE HIGH COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION AND HISTORY

.....X

THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH

Complainant

against

THE RULERS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING
ABOUT THE WAR OF 1914

Defendants

.....X

Humanity, by this indictment, accuses the rulers, who brought about the War of 1914, with the high crimes of treason, wholesale homicide, wholesale robbery, and other crimes and misdemeanors committed and perpetrated as follows:

That in the civilized continent of Europe, in this enlightened age in the summer of 1914, the defendants, without good cause and reasonable provocation, and against the interest and peace of the people, did levy war upon their neighbors, and by treachery, trickery, and intimidation compel the flower of their manhood to expose themselves to the fire of guns and to other scientific instruments of death and destruction, thereby to receive millions of wounds, many of which have proved mortal; and to expose their bodies to be mutilated and destroyed in their members and organs; and those subject to their rule were instigated, commanded, and compelled to endeavor to inflict like injuries upon other innocent human beings with whom they had no quarrel;

That the defendants by intimidation and violence took away the property of numerous people and caused the loss and destruction of the accumulated wealth of ages;

That thousands upon thousands were taken away from their homes and families, and women were deprived of the care and society of their husbands, of their means of support, and of their natural mates, and defendants caused great agony, pain, and physical suffering throughout their lands, and the perpetrators of these iniquities are now called to the judgment bar that they may be dealt with according to law and justice.

THE END



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